

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# **S. 769**

---

## **AN ACT**

To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate March 9 as U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day and to designate the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag as an official symbol to recognize citizens of the United States held as hostages or wrongfully detained abroad.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “U.S. Hostage and  
5 Wrongful Detainee Day Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION.**

7 (a) **HOSTAGE AND WRONGFUL DETAINEE DAY.**—

8 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 1 of title 36, United  
9 States Code, is amended—

10 (A) by redesignating the second section  
11 146 (relating to Choose Respect Day) as section  
12 147; and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following:

14 **“§ 148. U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day**

15 “(a) **DESIGNATION.**—March 9 is U.S. Hostage and  
16 Wrongful Detainee Day.

17 “(b) **PROCLAMATION.**—The President is requested to  
18 issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of  
19 the United States to observe U.S. Hostage and Wrongful  
20 Detainee Day with appropriate ceremonies and activi-  
21 ties.”.

22 (2) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-**  
23 **MENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title  
24 36, United States Code, is amended by striking the

1 item relating to the second section 146 and inserting  
 2 the following new items:

“147. Choose Respect Day.

“148. U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day.”.

3 (b) **HOSTAGE AND WRONGFUL DETAINEE FLAG.—**

4 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Chapter 9 of title 36, United  
 5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
 6 following new section:

7 **“§ 904. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag**

8 “(a) **DESIGNATION.—**The Hostage and Wrongful De-  
 9 tainee flag championed by the Bring Our Families Home  
 10 Campaign is designated as the symbol of the commitment  
 11 of the United States to recognizing, and prioritizing the  
 12 freedom of, citizens and lawful permanent residents of the  
 13 United States held as hostages or wrongfully detained  
 14 abroad.

15 “(b) **REQUIRED DISPLAY.—**

16 “(1) **IN GENERAL.—**The Hostage and Wrongful  
 17 Detainee flag shall be displayed at the locations  
 18 specified in paragraph (3) on the days specified in  
 19 paragraph (2).

20 “(2) **DAYS SPECIFIED.—**The days specified in  
 21 this paragraph are the following:

22 “(A) U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee  
 23 Day, March 9.

24 “(B) Flag Day, June 14.

1 “(C) Independence Day, July 4.

2 “(D) Any day on which a citizen or lawful  
3 permanent resident of the United States—

4 “(i) returns to the United States from  
5 being held hostage or wrongfully detained  
6 abroad; or

7 “(ii) dies while being held hostage or  
8 wrongfully detained abroad.

9 “(3) LOCATIONS SPECIFIED.—The locations  
10 specified in this paragraph are the following:

11 “(A) The Capitol.

12 “(B) The White House.

13 “(C) The buildings containing the official  
14 office of—

15 “(i) the Secretary of State; and

16 “(ii) the Secretary of Defense.

17 “(c) DISPLAY TO BE IN A MANNER VISIBLE TO THE  
18 PUBLIC.—Display of the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee  
19 flag pursuant to this section shall be in a manner designed  
20 to ensure visibility to the public.

21 “(d) LIMITATION.—This section may not be con-  
22 strued or applied so as to require any employee to report  
23 to work solely for the purpose of providing for the display  
24 of the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag.”.

1           (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-  
2           MENT.—The table of sections for chapter 9 of title  
3           36, United States Code, is amended by adding at  
4           the end the following:

“904. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag.”.

Passed the Senate May 31 (legislative day, May 30),  
2023.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

**S. 769**

---

**AN ACT**

To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate March 9 as U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day and to designate the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag as an official symbol to recognize citizens of the United States held as hostages or wrongfully detained abroad.